Welcome to the third year of the National Forum’s YouthMusic Connection e-newsletter! As I write this message, Dr. Vicki Pappas and I are actively planning this summer’s Youth Music Institute at the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline MA from July 30th through August 1st. This wonderful learning opportunity is designed for all interested youth music workers who desire to share ideas while learning new techniques for teaching music to young people. All of us have similar experiences, needs, and issues to share with one another that can make our teaching more effective and engaging for our students. Some of us have many years of experience under our belts, while others may be just beginning their adventure into teaching church music to kids. Most of our Metropolis Youth Music Coordinators will be in attendance as presenters or panelists. This will allow our registrants to connect in a personal way with the people who can help them the most within their respective area of the country. This Youth Music Institute is made possible by a grant received from Leadership 100. We sincerely hope and pray that you choose to be part of this terrific offering from your National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. Please see the schedule and registration information that is included at the end of this newsletter. If you have a new or budding program and have not yet contacted the YouthMusic Connection, please consider writing a short article for our next publication!

Wishing you a blessed and fruitful year,

Joanne H. Kambouris, Editor

In the Spotlight!

Direct Archdiocesan District Holds First Youth Choir Conference, January 24th & 25th, 2009

Sing the glory of His Name, give Him glorious praise! (Psalm 66:2)

The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians youth choir conference was a great success! Reverend Fathers Dennis Strouzas and Evan Evangelidis, along with the community of the Archangel Michael Church in Roslyn, NY hosted the first-ever event on the weekend of January 24-25, 2009. Choir directors, youth, psalti, and organists from across the Archdiocesan District participated in stimulating workshops designed to promote a better knowledge of the magnificent hymns of the Orthodox faith. Educational and inspirational workshop presentations were given by Anne Ktorides, choir director of the Assumption Church in Danbury, CT, Marina Alexander, conductor of the Metropolitan Greek Chorale in New York City, and Georgia Kaufman, youth choir director of Archangel Michael church in Roslyn, NY. Organist for Archangel Michael Church, Eleni Rodopoulos Kaufman, provided the piano accompaniment for the workshops and played the organ for the Youth Conference Liturgy. Workshop instruction presented the discussion of the value of being part of a youth choir, the study of hymnology and review of what is happening during the Divine Liturgy, Byzantine chant, solfege sight-singing, vocal warm-up exercises, diaphragmatic breathing techniques, and craft creations of beautiful cross bookmarks. A fantastic youth choir variety show included the hymn, Osi Eis Christon, played on cello and violin by the Anagnostopoulos Sisters from Archangel Michael Byzantine Youth Choir. A lovely Kenyan rendition of Kyrie Eleison was performed by young people from St Paul’s Cathedral in Hempstead, NY, directed by youth leader Virginia Pourakis. On Sunday morning, the angelic voices of the youth choir sang the Divine Liturgy in melodious harmony. After the service, Archangel Michael’s parish council president, Barbara Mavro, expressed her support for the youth music ministry by presenting a plaque and flowers to youth conference coordinator and conductor, Georgia Kaufman. A poignant message about the choirs of the future and the preservation of the rich musical heritage of our faith was eloquently delivered by the President of the Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, Anna Dounelis. All of the youth participants were given framed certificates and youth choir conference 2009 bumper stickers for their noteworthy participation. It was a glorious weekend singing praises to our Lord!
• **Metropolis of Chicago:**  *St. Mary’s, Minneapolis, MN*

We have formed a Liturgical Chant Ensemble of young singers between the ages of 13 and 20. Their repertoire consists of the entire Paschal matins service, hymns and responses for the Salutatio Service, hymns and responses to the Theotokos Service during the fast of the Dormition, hymns and responses for the Christmas Vesperal Liturgy, hymns and responses for the Presanctified Liturgy during Lent, and a complete section of hymns from the regular Sunday Liturgy.

Between fifteen and twenty young people have been participating in this Chant Group. They rehearse after the Liturgy during the school year. Their members are encouraged to sing with the Senior Choir on Sundays, and many regularly do so. St. Mary’s is truly blessed to listen to their angelic voices!

_Despina Macres, Senior Choir Director_

• **Metropolis of Detroit:**  *St. Nicholas, Troy, MI*

We have been directing a very small youth choir of kids from 4-5 families for about two years now. We meet on Sunday after the Divine Liturgy, five weeks before Christmas, to practice Christmas music that the kids can sing on the solea after the Vespers. We start meeting again five weeks prior to Easter Sunday to practice the music for the Agape Service and a few other hymns that the kids can sing on the solea after the service.

This year, our original goal was to teach the Divine Liturgy to the entire Sunday School, but instead we have started meeting with the Sunday School teacher who teaches 10th-12th grade. He is very excited about teaching the hymnology of the church. Last year we worked with his class to teach the Agni Parthene and Ti Ipermaho in both Greek and English. We are hoping that getting an increased interest from the older students might spur them to take an interest in helping us teach the lower grades. We also intend to continue our efforts toward having the youth sing at the Christmas Vespers and Christmas Pageant, chant the entire Agape Service, and sing a few Easter hymns at the end of that service. This year we attempted to teach the Agni Parthene to our youth choir, which is comprised mostly of children under the age of 13, so they could chant along after each of the Salutation Services and Divine Liturgies during Lent. This proved to be difficult for the age of the group, considering our limited practice time. Given that so much of our faith is built on the hymnology, we were very surprised to find that the Church itself doesn't have a standard program as part of the religious education program. We've been told that there has been a strong movement toward developing youth choirs. If you have any information on other programs that are out there that can save us from having to do this from scratch, we would welcome it.

_Sharon and Rob Filarecki, Youth Choir Co-Directors_

• **Metropolis of Atlanta:**  *Multiple Orthodox Parishes of Tampa Bay, Florida*

The Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay performed a banquet concert in mid-June for the 2009 Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Conference hosted by the Holy Trinity Parish of Clearwater. The concert featured several selections of Orthodox and secular music. The eleven-member choir is composed of students from several Greek and Serbian Orthodox parishes around the Tampa Bay region of Florida. Last year, this group traveled to Greece along with the Atlanta Metropolis Adult Choir under the
direction of Kevin Lawrence, and spiritual guidance of His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios. Our wonderful trip is detailed in the latest edition of our Metropolis Diakonia magazine at the following link: http://www.atlanta.goarch.org/index.php?pr=Diakonia_Magazine. The choir is under the spiritual guidance of Father James Rousakis of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater. For more information about the Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay, please visit our web site at www.oyctb.org.

Joanne H Kambouris, Director

• Archdiocese of Australia: St Anna Greek Orthodox Church, Gold Coast, Australia

I have been asked to set up a musical program for our Sunday school. We get about 20-35 children each Sunday. The target age group is between 5 and 12 years of age. The school is run by volunteer Mums that roster themselves in pairs every five weeks. The class program includes the Sunday lesson that is reinforced with a craft exercise or a quiz. In lieu of a craft exercise or quiz on the odd Sunday, we would like to introduce the opportunity for children to sing both Greek and English songs and Orthodox hymns. In addition to the singing of songs, we are working with a local music teacher to develop an interactive music lesson around basic liturgical responses (i.e. Amen, Kyrie Eleison, Alleluia, holding the ison, etc.) This music lesson incorporates the use of basic instruments, physical exercises, and music to teach the children in a fun way how to sing these basic responses in church or at least build their awareness of them when attending church. The long-term goal of the music lesson is to create a Junior choir and concentrate onliturgical music.

Sally Cominos-Dakin, teacher

Starting a Youth Music Program in Your Parish

A practical guide for starting and maintaining a quality youth music program from the ground up. Includes many useful ideas and suggestions, an extensive list of available resources, and frequently asked question. By Joanne H. Kambouris and Lynne Jebeles. Contact Vicki Pappas to order a copy. Cost is $15 plus shipping and handling.

Hymns Of The Orthodox Church:

Teaching booklets and a CD or cassette tape for 12 hymns of the Divine Liturgy. Each booklet includes music for Greek and English texts, information about the hymn; scriptural references; an associated icon, and teaching suggestions. The CD features EIKONA singing the hymns. Various ordering options are available:

1. Family Packet (CD plus a children's booklet for each hymn): $20 each.
2. 20-copy packets of booklets for any one hymn: $9 each.
3. Classroom Special (all 12 hymns with 20 booklets each plus a CD): $110.
4. CD only is $15.
5. Cassette tape also available for $12.

Shipping and handling will be added to your order. You will receive the materials with an invoice to send back with your check. No need to pre-pay.

For More Information

Please send all correspondence, questions, ideas, and information to:

Joanne H. Kambouris, Youth Initiative Chairman
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
2855 Country Woods Lane
Palm Harbor, Fl 34683
727-734-7721
E-mail: skambour@knology.net
or to
Dr. Vicki Pappas, National Chairman
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
3814 Regents Circle
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-855-8248
E-mail: pappas@indiana.edu
The Department of Religious Education
and
The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
present

Summer Institute 2009:
Focus on Youth Music

July 30th - August 1st
at
Hellenic College-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
50 Goddard Avenue Brookline, MA 02445

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians is pleased to announce the 2009 Summer Institute: Focus on Youth Music! This Archdiocese-wide event is made possible through a generous grant that the National Forum received from Leadership 100.

The Summer Institute will be held from Thursday noon, July 30th through Saturday evening, August 1st at Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Brookline as a joint venture between the Department of Religious Education and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. The Youth Music program is being developed by National Chairman, Vicki Pappas and Joanne Kambouris, National Forum Youth Initiative Coordinator, and promises to be informative and hands-on, with lots of practical information.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
The Youth Music Institute is a “must” for those interested in developing or expanding youth music programs in their parishes - Youth Choir Directors, Church School Teachers, Youth Music Coordinators, Clergy, Youth Ministry Coordinators, and any others interested in hymnology programs for our youth. The Department of Religious Education is also conducting a parallel Religious Education Track for church school teachers, and participants will be able to cross over to attend workshops of their interest.

WHAT’S IN STORE?
Youth Music topics will include:

• The Status of Youth Music programs in our Archdiocese: Where We Are and Where We Need to Go
• Practical Tips and Techniques for Young Choirs – Youth Music Demonstration Sessions
• Working with Young Singers
• Understanding Byzantine Liturgy
• Ideas for Youth Music Programs in Your Parish
• Hymn Sing: Repertoire for Children and Congregations
• Youth Music Jam Session: Hymns and Lessons that Work!
• Helping Children to Experience Byzantine Chant
• What Can a Youth Music Coordinator Do? Ideas for Your Parish, Your Metropolis, and the National Forum
• An Evening with Bishop Savas: Icons and iPads

HOW TO REGISTER:
To register, please complete the National Forum registration form and mail it with your check to:
Vicki Pappas, National Chairman
3814 Regents Circle
Bloomington, IN 47401

LODGING:
Special rates of $109 per night have been arranged with the Hilton Dedham Hotel - if you make your reservations prior to June 30th. Ask for the GOA Summer Institute rate.
Phone: 1-781-329-7900
Go to www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/DDHDHF-GOA-20090727/index.jhtml

Alternatively, a limited number of single rooms are available in the Polemanakos Dormitory @ $25 per night. Available on a first-come, first-serve basis. You MUST arrive no later than 3:30 pm Thursday (July 30) there are no staff after-hours to grant access. Please note that Polemanakos rooms are single rooms, no private baths. The dorm is not air-conditioned. To reserve a room, please send a reservation request and payment to:
Department of Religious Education, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445.

We will operate a shuttle between the campus and the hotel during the Institute. We recommend that you try to arrive on campus by Thursday noon.

For Additional Information:
If you would like further information about the Youth Music track, contact Vicki Pappas at pappas@indiana.edu.

For further information about the Religious Education Department’s track, go to this websites: